

P23681.A09.A08



IPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No. : 10/646,748

Examiner: David M. GRAY

Filed : August 25, 2003

For : A LENS BARREL INCORPORATING A ROTATABLE RING

SIXTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed, Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in a German Office Action (an English translation which is submitted herewith) that issued in German Patent Application No. 103 39 390.0-51, which is a patent family member of the present application:

(1) German Patent Publication No. DE 197 02 515 A1, which was published on January 21, 2000, together with an English language abstract of the same. Applicant notes that this document is a patent family member of United Kingdom Patent Publication No. GB 2,309,551, which was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement;

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(2) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/039241 A1, which was published on April 4, 2002;

(3) U.S. Patent No. 6,115,190 to HIRAI, which issued on September 5, 2000.

Applicant notes that this patent was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement; and

(4) U.S. Patent No. 6,064,533 to KENIN et al., which issued on May 16, 2000.

Applicant notes that this patent was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the German Examiner are set forth in the translation of the German Search Report.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. With respect to document (1), it is not believed that this German document is any more relevant than the previously-cited family member, and with respect to document (2), it is believed that this reference is cumulative to the references already of record. Nevertheless, in the interest of complete disclosure, a copy of document (1) is attached hereto and documents (1) and (2) are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the

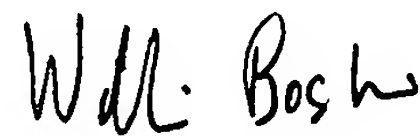
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attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant notes that a Request for Continued Examination was submitted on June 13, 2005, and not subsequent Official Action has been received. Thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA



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Application No.
10/646,748

AUG 01 2005

Group
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.